

WILSON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY, WILSON, N. C.  
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Wilson County  
(Historical File)  
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The manner in which the Lucama and the Statonsburg branch libraries were formed is interesting in that each followed a somewhat different pattern of organization, yet both are now operating successfully with the full support of the communities involved. When Federal funds became available, Miss Nancy Gray, county librarian, spoke to groups in the areas, informing them of the possibilities of branch library service and promising them the full cooperation of the Wilson County Public Library. She then wrote letters to the Mayors of each town, inviting them to participate. The towns of Lucama (township population 2,934) and Stantonsburg (township population 2,050) were most enthusiastic and with the support of key persons there the dream of branch libraries in Wilson County became a reality in a very short time.

Stantonsburg Branch was formed first. A Library Committee was selected which was made up of representatives from the three civic clubs of the town. This committee is composed of nine members and has adopted a constitution. That the committee is most conscientious and efficient is shown in the prompt manner in which it was able to secure suitable quarters for the library and to build up support for it in the town.

The building which was chosen for the Stantonsburg Branch was one which was formerly used as a grocery store and a cafe. It was in a sad state of disrepair, but it is located in a most advantageous spot, in the center of the business district, and the owner made it available rent free upon the cancellation of city taxes. The Town Board voted \$350 to be used for repairs and furnishings. Shelving was supplied at cost by a local mill and furniture; a desk, table and five chairs, was acquired through war surplus. The cement floor had no covering, so inlaid linoleum was purchased at cost from a local furniture store. White venetian blinds were obtained through the same source. The attractive green figured curtains, complementing the green walls, were made by a member of the Library Committee. Heat, a gas heater, was secured by another member of the committee, as was a large peg board for displays. Last to be installed was a white sign, projecting over the front door, which proudly proclaims the words "Stantonsburg Library" in bold black letters.

The library now presents a most attractive appearance, as is evidenced by the pleased comments of the townspeople who had formerly known the building as a dismal, empty shell.

Service was inaugurated on October 17, 1957. An open house was held, with the Library Committee serving as host. The branch is open on Mondays and Thursdays from two until five in the afternoon. Two story hours have been held and another one is being planned for the near future.

The Lucama Branch came into being chiefly through the efforts of one man, Mayor Richard Harn. He it was who persuaded the Town Board to make available a spacious, beautifully appointed room in the new Municipal Building for the library quarters. He it was, also, who secured expensive, custom-built shelving, and he it was who donated the mayor's own desk and chair for the use of the librarian. Mayor Harn, at the suggestion of Miss Gray, has appointed a Library Committee of five persons. These people have made themselves available for help when the need arises and are doing much to promote community interest in the library. The Lucama Parent Teachers Association has also expressed vital interest in the project.

The Lucama Branch opened on November 20, 1957. The Lucama Home Demonstration Club served as hostess and a very delightful open house was held to mark the occasion. The branch is open on Tuesdays and Fridays from two until five. A Christmas story hour was held on December 17.

Federal funds amounting to \$1,500 for each branch are being used to purchase books. The book collections have been supplemented liberally by books from the shelves of the main library. There are at present about 1,200 books at each branch, and a regular exchange of books from the county library collection to the two branches is maintained by visits of the bookmobile to the branches.

All ordering, cataloging and processing is done by the Wilson County Public Library which also furnishes supplies. A trained librarian, whose salary is paid with Federal funds, mans both branches. This librarian was also made available by the Wilson County Public Library.



The pride in which the people of Stantonsburg and Lucama hold in their new libraries is summed up in the comment of a small boy who visited the Stantonsburg Branch on opening day. With shining eyes he said, "When I heard that there was going to be a library here, I just couldn't believe it, and I am so glad it is true."